

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for creating links to enhanced content on a video stream using ~~a hot spot template~~, said method comprising:
~~creating at least one hot spot template in an externally referenced document, said hot spot template defines at least one attribute assignable to hot spots, said attributes assignable to hot spots comprising~~
~~a visual attribute, said visual attribute defining how an associated hot spot appears when displayed, and~~
~~a mouseOver attribute, said mouseOver attribute defining a hot spot behavior when a cursor is position over said associated hot spot;~~
enabling a user to halt said video stream so as to provide a single video frame for viewing;
providing a graphical user interface for receiving from the user a geometric outline defining a hot spot on said single video frame, attributes assigned to said hot spot, and for receiving a link for said hot spot;
storing said geometric outline, said attributes, and said link in a generic database;
~~assigning said at least one attribute to said hot spot based on said hot spot template in said separate hot spot template file;~~
allowing a preview of said hot spot by
translating a contents of said generic database into an XML database,
parsing said XML database with an XSL parser to create HTML and JavaScript;
displaying said HTML and JavaScript with a browser; and
embedding said hot spot, ~~[[and]]~~ said attributes, and said link into more than one different video in a first format by
translating said contents of said generic database into said XML database,

parsing said XML database with an XSL parser for each different video format to
create a customized hot spot definition for each different video format;
embedding said customized hot spot definition for each different video format
into a video stream for each different video format, and
storing each different video stream for each different video format.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot attribute template comprises a mouseOver attribute that specifies an icon to be displayed when a cursor is positioned over said associated hot spot.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot attribute template further comprises a language attribute assignable to hot spots.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot link template further comprises a URL link attribute assignable to hot spots.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hot spot attribute template further comprises an attribute that determines the set top box used to display said hot spot.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for creating customized links to enhanced content on a video stream using a hot spot template, said method comprising:

creating at least one hot spot template in an externally-referenced document; said hot spot
template defines at least one attribute for hot spots; said attributes assignable to hot
spots comprising

a visual attribute; said visual attribute defining how an associated hot spot appears
when displayed; and

a mouseOver attribute; said mouseOver attribute defining a hot spot behavior
when a cursor is position over said associated hot spot;

enabling a user to halt said video stream so as to provide a single video frame for viewing;

providing a graphical user interface for receiving from the user a geometric outline to defining a hot spot on said single video frame, attributes assigned to said hot spot, and for receiving a link for said hot spot;

assigning said at least one attribute to said hot spot based on said hot spot template in said separate hotspot template file;

storing said geometric outline of said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link in a generic database format;

allowing a preview of said hot spot by

translating a contents of said generic database into an XML database,

parsing said XML database with an XSL parser to create HTML and JavaScript;

displaying said HTML and JavaScript with a browser;

translating said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link from said generic database format into a first video format, said translating being done by with said hot spot template

converting said contents of said generic database into said XML database,

parsing said XML database with an XSL parser for said first video format to

create a customized hot spot definition for said first video format; and

embedding customized [[said]] hot spot definition for and said attributes in said first video format into a video stream.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13, said method further comprising:

changing at least one attribute of said hot spot template;

translating said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link from said generic database format into a second video format; and

embedding said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link in said second video format into a video stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein said translating is accomplished by an XSL translator.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first video format is adapted to be displayed on a first set top box and said second video format is adapted to be displayed on a second set top box.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first video format comprises a first set of visual attributes and said second video format comprises a second set of visual attributes, said first set of visual attributes and said second set of visual attributes having at least one dissimilar attribute.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first video format comprises a first set of URL links and said second video format comprises a second set of URL links, said first set of URL links and said second set of URL links having at least one dissimilar URL link.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said at least one attribute is an enhancement attribute, the method further comprising:
displaying said hot spot using a first set top box on a video screen; and
allowing a viewer to access said hot spot whereby said viewer may access said enhanced content.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 19, said method further comprising:
translating said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link from said generic database format into a second video format;
embedding said hot spot, [[and]] said attributes, and said link in said second video format into a video stream;
displaying said hot spot using a second set top box on a video screen; and

allowing a viewer to access said hot spot whereby said viewer may access said enhanced content.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein said translating is accomplished by an XSL translator.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first set top box and said second set top box are different.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first video format comprises a first set of visual attributes and said second video format comprises a second set of visual attributes, said first set of visual attributes and said second set of visual attributes having at least one dissimilar attribute.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first video format comprises a first set of URL links and said second video format comprises a second set of URL links, said first set of URL links and said second set of URL links having at least one dissimilar URL link.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first video format is adapted to a first language and said second video format is adapted to a second language.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said first video format is adapted to a first language and said second video format is adapted to a second language.